


Professor wants yea for Yeager



Scott Shuey
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Students taking Urban Politics next semester may find their instructor is as worthy of study as what is being taught in class.

That is, of course, if things go Ken Yeager's way today at the polls.

Yeager, a professor of political science at SJSU since 1991, is currently running for the District 6

San Jose City Council seat, which includes Willow Glen and the Rose Garden districts.

Frank Fiscalini, the current District 6 councilman, cannot run again due to term limits.

Yeager said while District 6 does not include SJSU, he would still be representing both the school and the students since SJSU students also live in his district. Yeager said he would be working with San Jose City Councilwomen Cindy Chavez, the district representative for the area that includes SJSU, on issues regarding the university.

SEE PROPOSITION INFO ON PG. 6

"I'd like to build a better bridge between SJSU and City Hall," he said.

"San Jose State is under-appreciated and under-acknowledged at the city level."

Yeager graduated from the political science department at SJSU in 1976. He is now teaching the classes he once took, such as Urban and State politics.

"It's a kick to teach the classes you've taken," he said. "I'm able to give them my opinions as a candidate."

Many of Yeager's former students are helping out with the campaign. Yeager said that roughly four out

of every five volunteers working on the campaign are former students.

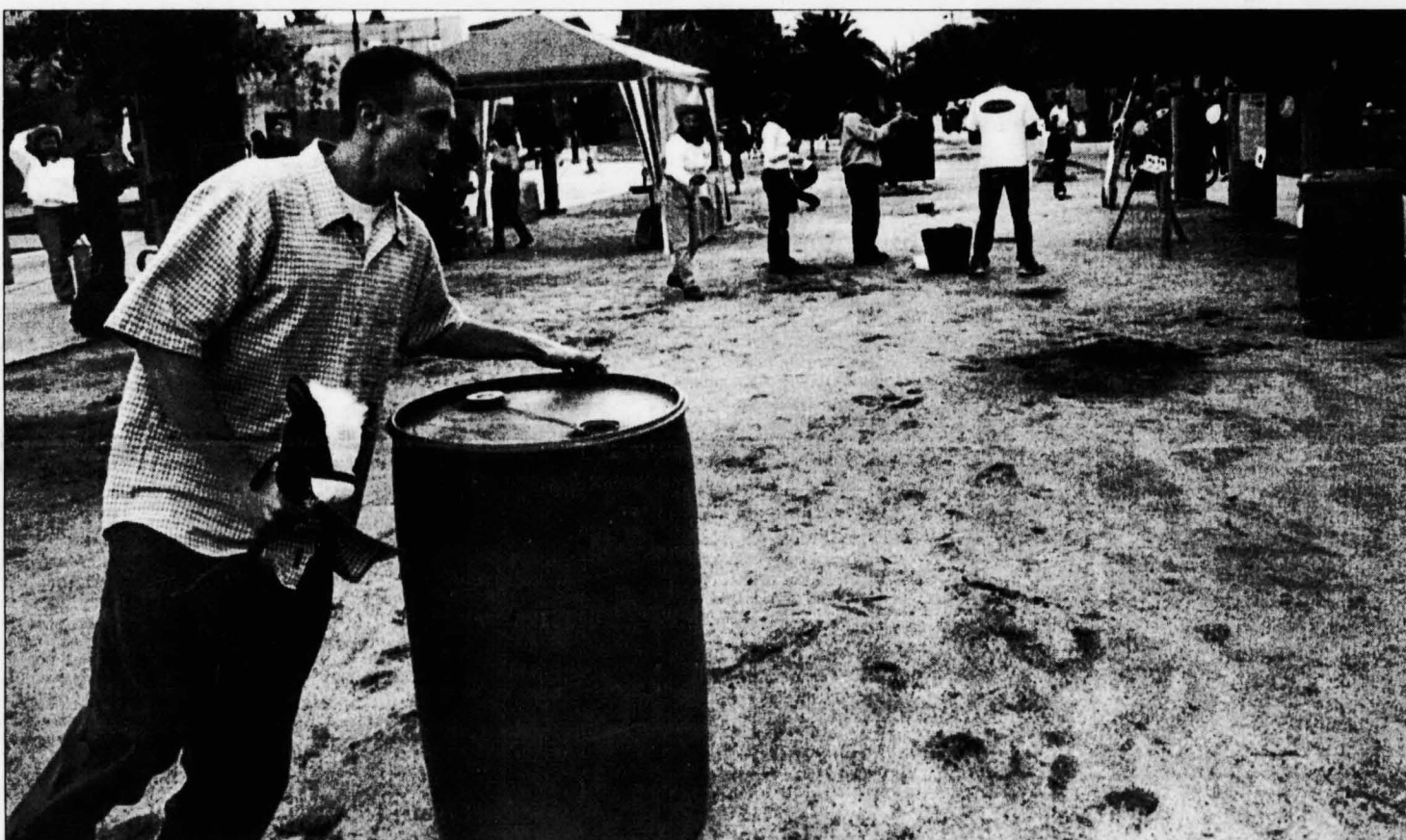
Denelle Fedor, a 1996 Political Science graduate, is working as Yeager's campaign coordinator.

"He's very hands-on," she said. "He will not have us do his work for him. He is very approachable and understands the hardships the students face."

Fedor said Yeager is a tough instructor and she admits to having to take his Urban Politics class twice.

See Yeager, page 3

A class learns how to round up the posse



Left, Eric Young cuts a corner during barrel racing, the first of four activities Monday in front of the Event Center. Students in the Recreation and Leisure class organized the Spartan Roundup, which offered participants a short and fun escape from their Monday afternoon school stress.

Top, Mike Johnson, a philosophy major at San Jose State University, throws a hula hoop on a blow-up cactus.

Photos by Sebastian Widmann / Spartan Daily

Looking back : Moulder Hall

Erik Anderson
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: When three Seton Hall University students were killed in a January dorm fire, we questioned how safe SJSU was in the event of a fire. During the next few days, the Spartan Daily will take an in depth look at how safe we really are in case of a fire — Ed.

It was 5:55 a.m. on Oct. 19, 1990 when the phone call came through.

"I was working (patrol) that day. I had just come into the station to relieve one of the officers who'd been running dispatch that night," said Tim Villarica, a corporal with San Jose State University's Police Department.

The other officer, Glenn Young — a rookie officer at the time — would be going on patrol for the rest of the shift, while Villarica would remain at dispatch.

"The phone call then came in. He (Young) was sitting at the desk — I answered it," Villarica said.

"As I was sitting down at the desk to take over the radio (dispatch), he told me there was a fire at Moulder Hall and took off."

Along with Villarica and



A University Housing Services employee cleans the third floor of Moulder Hall after a fire rocked the dorm in 1990.

Young, there were three other officers working that night — Robert Noriega, senior patrol officer, Tom Pomeroy, who was out on patrol and Grant Ledbetter, a sergeant, who was in charge for the shift.

Meanwhile, Officer Tom Pomeroy, who had worked for the department for 14 years before leaving and coming back for six more years up to that point — was out on the campus.



Fire in the HALLS

"I was a block away ... at Eighth and San Salvador (streets) where I was doing patrol," Pomeroy said.

"When I got there (Moulder Hall), I could see black smoke coming out (the) windows. I requested additional units and

Advisers get training

Erik Anderson
DAILY STAFF WRITER

Adriana Hernandez doesn't worry that none of the six red-brick residential halls at San Jose State University have sprinkler systems.

"The resident advisers (RA's) are very conscientious," said Hernandez, a freshman in occupational therapy and a resident of Hoover Hall.

Resident advisers, whose job it is to ensure all residents leave the building safely, have an intensive training of their own.

"We put them through basic fire extinguisher training and over the different types of fire extinguishers, teaching how to use them," said Paul Richardson, resident director of Moulder Hall.

The on-duty resident advisers are very thorough and check all the areas for signs of fire throughout the night, she said.

Self portraits celebrate women's history

Erika Coron
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"Artists," a focus on self-portraits by women, was the first in a series of presentations to celebrate Women's History Month at San Jose State University.

Monday's presentation, by Christy Junkerman, a professor of art history, was sponsored by the Women's Resource Center at SJSU. The display reflects women's self presentation through self-portraits.

March 2000 was named Women's History Month by President Clinton in February of this year, encouraging everyone to participate in programs

and activities recognizing the achievements of women.

"A lot of people I know are very excited," Aurora Pimentel, from the women's resource center said of the week-long events which will continue through March 9.

Junkerman said this was a great opportunity to give a focused lecture on women in particular and to talk about the history of women as an issue — something that is not usually done in normal courses.

"I thought she had a good idea, to make this coincide with class," Junkerman said about Pimentel's

See Women, page 5

Cashed out

Associated Students close to exhausting activity money

Donna Carmichael
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Student organizations seeking money from Associated Students need not apply.

As of Wednesday, Controller Carlos Aguirre's allocation fund stood at \$650, plus change, with 10 weeks of the semester left.

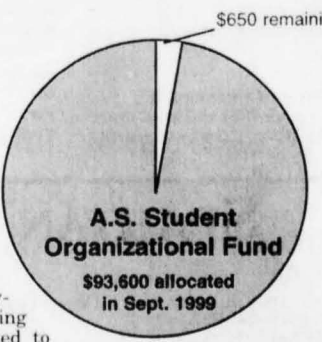
Associated Students kicked off the academic year, the fall semester, with \$93,600 in its student organization fund, according to the published 1999-2000 A.S. budget.

The fund total is calculated at budget time each spring — after


A.S. elections.

The amount allocated to the fund is 10 percent of the projected enrollment for the upcoming fall and spring semesters, multiplied by the \$18 mandatory student fee earmarked for A.S. For 1999-2000, the total revenues from fall and spring A.S. activity fees amounted to \$936,000.

In spring 1997, San Jose State University students voted in favor of an initiative that "dedicated a minimum of 10 percent of the Associated Students operating budget each fiscal year to student organization activities," according to



A.S. Student Organizational Fund
\$93,600 allocated in Sept. 1999
\$650 remaining



54 left
220 calendar days in school year

Graphics by Aaron Williams / Spartan Daily

See A.S., back page

See Moulder, page 5

See Fire, page 5

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Lack of A.S. candidates abhorrent

Fifteen days before the first ballot is to be cast in the Associated Students elections, nine candidates can celebrate victory. They have no opponents on the ballot, and by default, they have already won the election without contest.

Nine seats is more than half of the positions on the 16-member A.S. board. This is unacceptable.

The three most important positions — president, in which incumbent Leo Davila has two opponents to beat, vice president and controller — are viable contests. But the lack of candidates — or perhaps the students' lack of interest to run as candidates — is yet another black eye on the governing body which represents the students at San Jose State University.

These are the people who will be dealing with issues students are connected with — parking, computer labs and extracurricular events. With the lack of interest in applying for positions that could address these issues, the problems will remain unsolved, never to be brought up save for a classroom discussion or a Spartan Daily article.

The lack of candidates also shows that students prefer to remain silent, just as they do on A.S. election day, when votes rarely exceed 2,000.

Last year, 1,185 people voted in the A.S. elections, and their votes affected an estimated 27,000 students at SJSU. Now, nine people who just happen to be in the right place at the right time can earn a stipend — which they can vote to raise as they did last semester — from student fees and can influence the fate of SJSU students.

What a shame it is, that so few can be chosen by none to make the decisions for so many.

Also, it appears that students don't care how the money they give to A.S. — via student fees — is spent. That is, of course, one of the most important decisions every A.S. board makes.

This editorial should not be taken as criticism for the victorious candidates. Nor is it criticism of the new A.S. board members.

Another item to note is that all of the nine early winners are members of the Spartan Party, which is A.S. President Leo Davila's party.

This isn't odd since the Spartan Party's sole opposition comes from the recently formed SJSU Party and from independent candidates. The Blue and Gold Party, to which former A.S. President Heather Cook belonged, has all but vanished from the radar screen.

Opposition sometimes brings in more alternatives and better ideas, not to mention more attention to an organization that is almost ignored by the students it serves.

But students are once again not showing up to the A.S. election — this time however, on the ballots.

The lack of students willing to jump into the A.S. election process as candidates not only makes the system a joke, it diminishes the voice of the student body as well.

SJSU sets the stage for 'real world' experience

After nine, often agonizing, years in college — at both junior college and four-year levels — I am ready to fly the coop.

I entered college as a single, heart-broken kid who didn't want to grow up and had no idea what he wanted to do with his life. I will leave as a husband and father of two who still refuses to grow up but has a firm grasp on where he wants to be professionally.

Nine years ago I was strung out on dope. Now, most people think I am a dope.

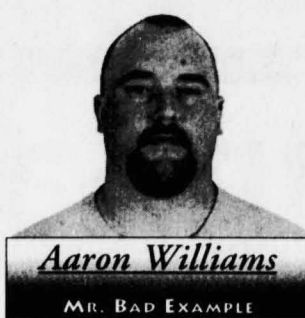
Come May, the only way I will ever cram my oversized butt into the under-sized chairs of the lecture halls again is by gunpoint.

I've had my share of pointless, incessant-rambling lectures by professors who are more interested in hearing themselves speak than conveying a compelling message.

If I had a dollar for every time I've nodded-off in one of my professor's scintillating lectures, I could build a war chest big enough to make a bid for the 2004 presidency.

Yet, for all the times I've felt like sticking ice picks in my ears to stop the maddening drivel from a fresh-out-of-grad-school-professor — who is still three years younger than myself — I have, as my 2-year-old son says, "got smart."

As is often the case, the best learning is not the rhetoric spewed forth in the name of academia but life itself, which is why I can say — with sincere apologies to Robert Fulghum — "Everything I Need for Life I Learned



Aaron Williams

MR. BAD EXAMPLE

at SJSU, Not From SJSU."

• I've learned you don't judge a book by its cover.

Yes, I am Joe Whitey. But by looks only.

Yes, I fit into certain stereotypes of Joe Whitey. I can't dance, I can't jump — very high — and at times, the angry white male resentful of being held accountable for injustices done by white males in previous generations rears its ugly head.

But I choose to look at myself, not by the stereotypical view, but by my thoughts, words and actions.

I was raised to heed the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and judge people, "On the content of their character rather than the color of their skin."

That is the reason the friendships I will take away from San Jose State University will be as diverse as my skin is white.

The best lessons have been taught to me by people "not like me."

By letting me into their lives, these friends have forced me to look past the facade of race and have taught me many lessons.

They have taught me true friends will stand out in the freezing night waiting for you to fix your car.

Try putting that into your scantron bubble.

• The most challenging things are the most rewarding.

I once had a class where the professor stood in the front of class and rambled on-and-on, day after day. It was a semester-long exercise in boredom.

It was the easiest grade I ever got. It was also the worst class I ever took.

I checked out as soon as the class started and can't, for the life of me, remember even one of the professor's vivid lectures.

By contrast, I took a children's literature class last semester that was among the hardest classes I've had. It was also one of the best experiences of my academic career.

I was challenged by the material, forced to look beyond the obvious and wound up getting more out of the class than just a grade — I got the satisfaction of reaching beyond what I thought I could do.

You can't get that in a lecture.

• Adversity makes you stronger.

I could sit here and fill pages about the truly Spartan accommodations on campus, but I won't.

I've come to accept the fact the

Daily uses computers Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak actually made themselves. I've come to accept the fact the system doesn't really give a damn about anything more than making sure the "look-good" is taken care of. I've come to accept the fact things won't change.

I accept these facts because I came to the realization long ago that these adversities only make us Spartans more prepared for the "Real World." If I can succeed here, I can excel elsewhere — not because of what SJSU has to offer, but what they didn't.

Try filling-in that scantron bubble.

• The biggest sacrifices go unnoticed.

I have been able to rant and wax idiotic weekly for the past three-and-a-half years while Mrs. Bad Example plays the adult role.

I get to be a footloose and fancy free — relatively — college student. She toils in a job she'd rather not have.

I get to live in the whimsical world of academia. She lives in the unforgiving, unrelenting world of big business.

I get accolades. She gets burdens and responsibilities.

I get to learn how much her sacrifices mean to me. She gets to learn from how much I appreciate her sacrifices.

I learned that from the textbook of life.

Aaron Williams is the Spartan Daily Co-Executive Editor. "Mr. Bad Example" appears Tuesdays.

Minority past, potential forgotten

I really wasn't going to write this, but after a Burger King commercial ruined a five-beer buzz, I couldn't keep it in any longer.

The commercial, showing three African-Americans with their hats on backwards rapping to some wack-ass beat, concluded a day that included finding out that using the Spartan Daily for toilet paper is not a good idea.

I have to remember to ask James Ditch how he is able to use our publication to clean himself without getting cuts, but that will have to wait for a more pressing matter at hand.

Before I get into this issue, let's get some things straight.

I am a minority.

In order for people to leave me alone, I grab my crotch.

I am what conservative people call a troublemaker.

With that said, it is time for my diatribe.

I don't get to watch much television, but when I do, I am constantly hounded by our popular media's use of minorities.

If there isn't three African-Americans shukin' and jivin' trying to sell hamburgers, there are minorities dressing and acting with a bunch of suburban white kids.

Whatever the difference is, minorities are pawns and will always dance for society's entertainment, because they never challenge what is presented to them. Be prepared, this is where my political correctness goes out the window.

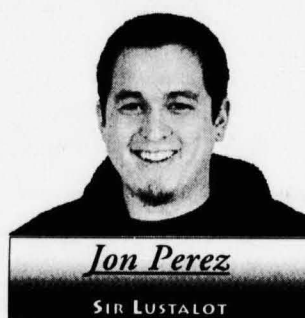
Minorities are OK with The Gap commercials, which hire minority models only to dress them up as white people so the company can appeal to minorities and say they promote diversity.

That's what they say.

This is what I say.

I say I'm tired of advertisers using my brethren's stupidity against us to tell us how to act.

Society's view of minorities basically breaks down into two categories: they are either just a darker skin-colored version of a



Jon Perez

SIR LUSTALOT

white person, or they fit the typical minority stereotype.

This never posed a problem when my generation was growing up.

Minorities that weren't brain-washed by society could look to the underground rap culture by listening to Chuck D and KRS-1 to get a sense of identity, but since the rap culture of today consists of Puff Daddy and Juvenile, a lot of minorities are lost.

The minorities that parade around campus with slicked-back hair and bright designer clothes are the product of what is happening in the media today.

These individuals are followers, and they don't realize the power minorities have.

No, it is not by being smart and being in positions of power.

What you will all realize in the corporate world is that money is blind. If someone can make money off of you, they will.

Minorities don't realize that.

We feel that success is determined on how much money we can make in a white-dominated world.

We try our hardest wearing the best clothes, buying the best cars and acting like little bitches, desperately trying to gain acceptance.

It will never work because we are so busy trying to prove ourselves to popular culture that we don't see how minorities actually control society.

We are the ones that set the

trends, styles and slang of today.

When I have white people calling me "nigga" because they want to prove they are down, while at the same time my fellow Asians form fraternities and sororities only to act more white than the others, there is a problem.

Maybe the stereotype of minorities being stupid is true. We don't see how little white kids want to be like us.

And we don't see how the media portrays us.

Television channels, such as BET and UPN, constantly teach African-Americans and other minority groups that being successful is to wear the best clothes, get the high-paying jobs and live in nice houses.

Forget about what we have learned from our forefathers and the strength they had as individuals to give us the opportunity to go to college.

Forget about our culture. Let's be like the sell-outs on television.

Every minority on television is an extension of a white person.

We are slowly becoming like them.

Why do minorities go to school?

Is it to get a good job and turn a blind eye to the problems we face today?

Or is it to mirror what we see on television?

We are a group that has no sense of itself and will always do what white people want us to. We are ignorant and stupid.

It is not the media's fault that we are like this. It is ours.

While the rest of you continue to dance for the white man, I will continue to hold my crotch in public, protesting the current state of the minorities of today, while trying to figure out who the hell I am.

I just didn't realize I would have to do it myself.

I thought I had you.

Jon Perez is the Spartan Daily Production Editor. "Sir Lustalot" appears Tuesdays.

SPARTA GUIDE

Today

Health Education Department and Student Health Center

Stop smoking class registration from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Health Center, Room 210. For more information, call Dr. Oscan Battle, Jr. at 924-6117.

SJSU Sport Club and Student Health Center

Free nutrition counseling. A \$50 value. Talk to a graduate student in nutrition about all your nutrition questions from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Sign up at the SJSU Sport Club or call Nancy Black at 924-6118 for more information.

Chicano Commencement

Weekly meeting at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at the Chicano Resource

Center. For more information, call Celeste at 259-5630 or Alejandra at 971-7942.

Jewish Studies Program

Poetry reading with Karen Alkalay at 12:30 p.m. in the Faculty Offices, Room 104. For more information call D. Mesher at 924-5547.

A.S. Campus Recreation

Pre-trip meeting for indoor rock climbing at 5 p.m. at the Student Union, Montalvo room. For more information, call Matt McNamara at 924-6217.

Leadership Development Workshop Series

Time management strategies for success from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Pacheco room. For more information, call the Student Life Center at 924-5950.

Student Society for Technical Communication

Meeting on grant writing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Union, Costanoan room. For more information, call Hillary Harrell at 924-8397.

Adapted Physical Activity Club

First meeting scheduled to discuss club events, volunteer work and social from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in Spartan Complex, 90A. For more information, call Ramin Naderi at 725-1553.

Spartan Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff. The deadline for entries is noon, three days before the desired publication date. Entry forms are available in the Spartan Daily Office. Space restrictions may require editing of submissions. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received.

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Readers are encouraged to express themselves on the Opinion page with a letter to the editor.

A letter to the editor is a 200-word response to an issue or point of view that has appeared in the Spartan Daily.

Submissions become the property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Submissions must contain the author's name, address, phone number, signature and major.

Submissions may be put in the Letters to the Editor box at the Spartan Daily Office in Dwight Bentel Hall Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3237, e-mail at SDAILY@jmc.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, CA 95192-0149.

Editorials are written by, and are the consensus of, the Daily editors, not the staff.

Unpublished opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU.

ELECT ME

SJSU professor seeks City Council seat

Yeager

continued from page 1

Fedor also said Yeager's campaign for City Council has been strong.

"We've gotten wonderful support and a high degree of support from women," Fedor said. "Ken is by far the most progressive. He has the ability to build consensus and is very process oriented."

Yeager, who is openly gay, said his sexual orientation has not been an issue so far in this election and he doesn't expect it to be. In 1996, when he ran for the state assembly, his sexual orientation came under attack.

"I think everyone was horrified at the attacks four years ago," Yeager said. He also said the person responsible for the attacks later apologized.

While his homosexuality hasn't been an issue during the campaign, Wiggys Sivertsen, director of counseling services at SJSU, said it may still have an effect on people at the polls.

"What people say and do is very different. People have their biases," said Sivertsen, who along with Yeager started a gay and lesbian alliance. "Anytime you are not apart of the mainstream, it has an impact. People are not intelligent voters. They don't read the issues and they don't get involved."

Sivertsen said voters respond more to glitz and sound bites. However, Sivertsen, who has known Yeager since the late '70s, believes the people in San Jose are sophisticated enough to look past that.

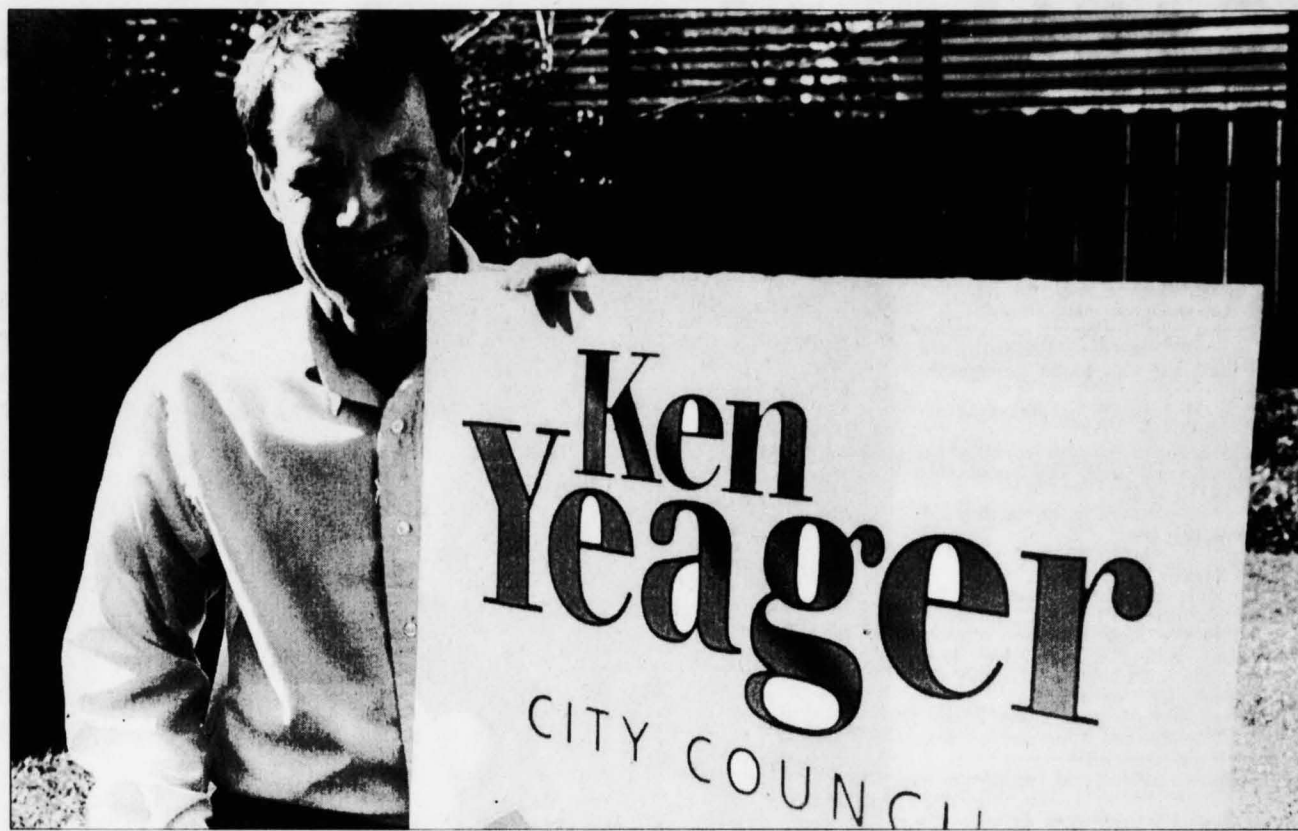
"People look beyond his status," she said. "He's very well-principled and honorable."

"I think he would be a huge addition to the council," Sivertsen added. "Ken is very bright. I don't live in San Jose, but I'd love to have him as my councilman."

Yeager is optimistic about his chances at the polls. He is running against Bill Chew, Mike Borquez, Kris Cunningham, Dan Lopez and Jim Spence.

"It's looking good for me," he said.

Yeager said his campaign is



Mari Matsumoto / Spartan Daily

Ken Yeager, a political science instructor and San Jose State University alumnus is running for San Jose City Council in District 6,

which covers the Willow Glen and Rose Garden areas. Yeager has been teaching at SJSU for 10 years.

"Ken is by far the most progressive. He has the ability to build consensus and is very process oriented."

— Denelle Fedor
campaign coordinator

focusing on quality-of-life issues in San Jose.

"I have been more involved in neighborhood issues and staying very close to home," he said. "I'm very excited about the feeling at the city level."

Some of the issues that Yeager's campaign is focusing on include traffic, improving education and making sure that neighborhoods include city parks.

"The traffic is moving too fast in the neighborhoods and too slow on the freeways," Yeager said. "We'd like to reverse that."

Yeager is also a marathon runner and an avid hiker, according

to Fedor. Yeager's outdoor activities explain his interest in parks.

"He wants to make sure that children have play areas in their neighborhoods," she said.

Yeager moved to San Jose in 1971. He is also president of the Rose Garden Neighborhood Preservation Association — a group working to preserve the historic nature of the Rose garden neighborhood — and holds a chair on the Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens Committee. He has also been vice president of the San Jose/Evergreen Community College Board of Trustees and chair of the Airport

Curfew Monitoring Committee.

Yeager first worked with the San Jose city council in the 1970s.

"I did my first internship with (former City Councilwoman) Susie Wilson," he said.

Since he graduated in 1976, Yeager has gone on to earn two Master's degrees from Stanford, one in Sociology and another in Education, and a Ph.D. from Stanford in Education.

In his political career, he has worked for Congressman Don Edwards and several Santa Clara County Supervisors.

He was press secretary for Edwards from 1983 to 1985 and worked as Edwards's campaign manager in the 1982, 1984, and 1986 elections.

Yeager served as an assistant to Wilson from 1979 to 1982 when Wilson was a Santa Clara County Supervisor.

He was also an assistant to Santa Clara County Supervisor Rod Diridon from 1978 to 1979.

District 6 Candidates

- Bill Chew
- Mike Borquez
- Kris Cunningham
- Jim Spence
- Ken Yeager
- Dan Lopez

McCain makes last-minute attempt to lure voters in Santa Clara

SANTA CLARA (AP) — A feisty John McCain labeled Republican rival George W. Bush "so Clinton-esque it's scary," while a subdued Bill Bradley said he must "win a couple of states" as both underdogs looked to revive their presidential campaigns in a Super Tuesday showdown.

In the more competitive race of the two, both Bush and McCain were making a final push today in California, where 162 delegates to the GOP nominating convention were the biggest prize of the day. Bush had the inside track on those delegates, but McCain hoped for a symbolic victory in the nonbinding popular vote.

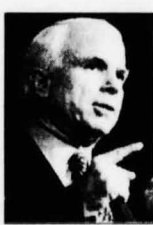
"There has not been a primary yet that has met expectations. It's just too volatile," McCain said at a rally in Santa Clara, claiming

the momentum was his.

At a San Diego park, a confident-sounding Bush urged supporters to send a message "that this party and this philosophy needs a leader that can bring people together."

Bradley aides were quietly making plans for an exit if Vice President Al Gore does as well as polls suggest in Tuesday's voting for the Democratic nomination.

"I don't think there's any magic number, but I do think we have to win a couple of states," Bradley said today on CBS' "Early Show," holding out hope for Connecticut, Rhode Island,



McCain

Maine, Maryland or Missouri.

Both Gore and Bradley were devoting the day to New York. Gore courted New York's Jewish activists this morning, saying in a Gore administration, the United States would be "a good and helpful and loyal friend to Israel."

Bradley greeted commuters at the Staten Island Ferry terminal in Manhattan at 7:30 a.m. "Rest is for another day," he said.

McCain told reporters that Bush "handed us back the reform issue" thanks to a \$2.5 million series of attack ads he says are financed by Bush's forces.

"It's so Clinton-esque it's scary

— raise the soft money, run the attack ads," McCain said of the ads on Sunday. "They're getting more and more like the Clinton campaign. They'll say anything."

Bush dismissed the complaint, saying he had nothing to do with the commercials, and campaigned with the air of a front-runner.

"My response is the independents and Republicans are going to nominate me," the Texas governor said. He began his final swing through California with a rally in Oakland and was heading back to Texas later to await the results from primaries and caucuses.

Bush leads in Ohio and in

California's delegate race. Two polls released today, by Marist and Zogby-Reuters-MSNBC, suggest that Bush and McCain are very close in New York, but another, by the Quinnipiac Institute, gives Bush a nine-point lead.

Bush has big leads in Missouri, Georgia and Maryland, while McCain leads in some New England states, including Massachusetts and Vermont. Bush has also built an edge in Connecticut.

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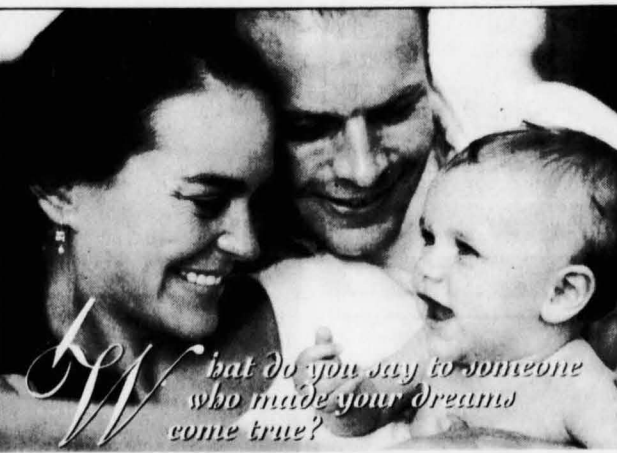
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Sports

SJSU swings, misses — twice

Monica L. Ewing

DAILY STAFF WRITER

The sun shone down on the Spartan tennis team on Saturday at the Spartan Courts, but luck did not.

Cal State Northridge took control of the match early on with the San Jose State University women, winning 8-1.

Twelve members played on six courts for a small crowd who huddled in the cold until the sun broke through the clouds.

Then the same players played doubles on three courts.

After three matches in four days, the Spartans were tired, said head coach Anh Dao Nguyen.

They played hard in the loss, but didn't play their best.

"They've played better," assistant coach Marcus Bately said.

On court one, Marta Zivanov lost 6-2, 6-4 to Northridge's Isabella Peintner.

All of the Spartans were vocal on Saturday, yelling at themselves when they made mistakes, and Zivanov was one of the most vocal.

"I was mentally going crazy," Zivanov said. "That was the worst match I have ever played in my life."

Despite what she said, her match was one of the longest of the day. Often gripping her racket with two fists, Zivanov played tirelessly until the end.

"She is a very consistent player," Peintner said about Zivanov. "I had to take control of the match, so I took risks."

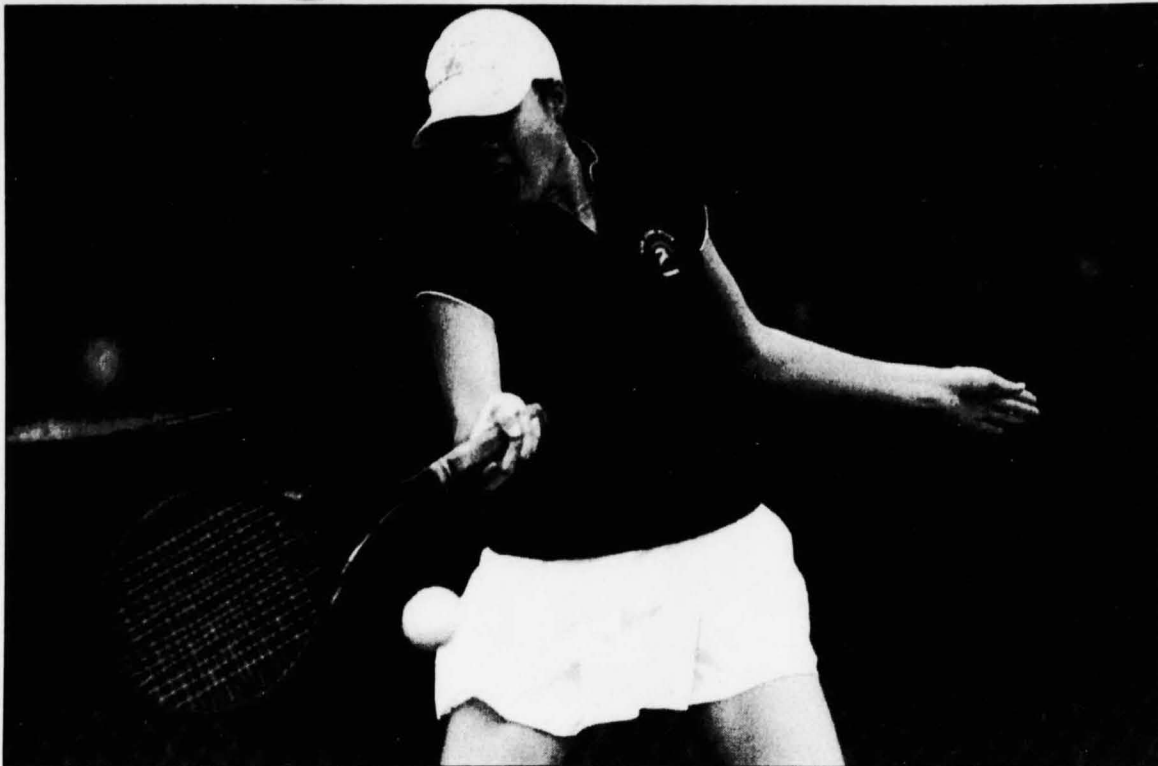
Peintner said the windy conditions brought a new factor to Saturday's match as the players had to adjust to the environment.

"Depending on which side you are on, you had to hit the ball harder or softer," she said.

On court six, Vanessa Pinot lost to Marietta-Louise Shaw, 6-2, 6-3.

"It was not my day," Pinot said. "I was not aggressive enough."

In frustration, she shook her head and proclaimed she didn't know how to play tennis anymore.



Douglas Rider / Spartan Daily

Helen Van returns a volley to her opponent, Katie Fitzgerald of Cal State Northridge, Saturday at the San Jose State University tennis courts. The Spartans lost 8-1. It was the fourth consecutive loss for the tennis team.

Pinot and Zivanov lost to the Matador's Peintner and Shaheen Bhanji in the doubles match, 8-4.

Regardless, Pinot remained upbeat and cut off several balls at the net.

Caroline Stenman was also defeated by Northridge's Tereza Simonyan, 6-1, 6-4.

"In the first set, I wasn't really moving and stepping into the court," Stenman said. "By the end of the second

set, I was stepping into the court better. I should have beat her in the second set."

The only Spartan win of the day was by Coral Silverstone. She beat Northridge's Andrea Engels 6-1, 6-2.

"I was more aggressive and consistent," Silverstone said about the match.

Silverstone didn't play as well in the doubles match. She and Stenman got wiped out 8-0 at the hands of Northridge's Simonyan and Shaw, 8-0.

Stenman said it was difficult mentally playing doubles, because Northridge had already won the match with a score of 5-1 in singles.

Helen Van also lost to Northridge's Katie Fitzgerald, 6-2, 6-3.

"The last couple of days have been pretty hard matches," Van said. "The scores may not show it, but the individual matches have been really close."

Between matches Saturday, Van

walked around in sandals, her feet swathed in white tape. She complained that her feet were not wrapped well enough for the first match.

"I have been playing pretty hard for the last week or so," Van said. "It's been hard on my feet."

Anna Nordel lost to Northridge's Shaheen Bhanji in a long, tough match, 4-6, 7-5, 4-6.

Because the rest of the singles matches were over, the Spartans gathered to cheer on Nordel.

"I was disappointed because I won against that girl last year," Nordel said. "It was a tough match. I should have done better."

Nordel and Van came the closest in all the doubles matches. They lost to Engels and Fitzgerald, 9-7.

"Northridge surprised us," Nguyen said. "I truly thought of all the matches they played this week, this would be the win."

Nguyen said she couldn't understand how the Spartans could beat Northridge's conference champion, Northern Arizona, and then turn around and lose to Northridge, 8-1.

The Big Sky Conference champion, Northern Arizona, fell to SJSU on Feb. 20, 5-4.

The Spartans have lost the last four matches in a row, including Saturday's match.

"We are a lot better team than we have been playing," Nguyen said. "All six girls are capable of winning the matches, but they are coming up short."

UTEP also got the better of SJSU in Friday's match, 7-2.

The winning matches were Pinot against Elisa Bjorkland, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, and the tandem of Zivanov and Pinot against UTEP's Jana Perkova and Tanja Magoc, 8-6.

The Spartans will play at 2 p.m. on Tuesday against Santa Clara at Los Gatos Swim and Racquet Club.

Nguyen is hopeful about the upcoming match.

"We beat them once last year," she said. "I think we are a better team."

Spartan roundup

Staff report

Men end with win

The men's basketball team finished its regular season in the Western Athletic Conference with a 70-61 win against UTEP on Saturday. Darnell Williams and Cory Powell combined for a total of 31 points against the Miners. San Jose State University finished its season with a record of 6-8 in the WAC and 15-14 overall.

Williams posted a double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Powell finished with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Ahead 32-28 at halftime, Williams went on a 10-point scoring run to start the Spartans in the second half. SJSU outscored the Miners in the second half 38-33. The Spartans finished fifth in the WAC, which was the highest finishing position in the standings since it became a member of the WAC in 1996-1997.

Key wins WAC award

After giving up 17 hits, four earned runs and striking out 11 in 15 innings, Spartan pitcher Chris Key was named the WAC pitcher of the week for the week that ended on March 5. He currently has a 2.18 ERA and is 4-0 on the season. Key pitched 7 1/3 innings of a 6-3 win against Hawai'i and 7 2/3 innings in a 5-3 victory at TCU.

The victory against TCU was the last game in the series Sunday in Fort Worth. With the win against the Horned Frogs,

SJSU improved its record to 3-3 in the WAC and 11-5 overall. The Spartans began the series with two losses, 13-5 on Friday and 6-4 on Saturday.

More records for SJSU

Despite placing fourth in the gymnastics meet at Cal, the Spartans were still able to come away proud after Tanika Byrd scored a 9.900 on the balance beam. Byrd's record was not only a season high, but a career high for the Elk Grove native. Her previous best record was a 9.775 set in March of 1999. Other high scores by the Spartans came from the balance beam, with career high performances from both Tracy Cheshier, who scored a 9.800, and Stacy Martin, who scored a 9.625.

The Spartans return home at 7:30 p.m. Friday when they face

Fullerton in the Spartan Gym.

Water polo wins two

Spartans Liz Garcia and Neva West were named to the All-Tournament Team after their performances in the Victor Aloha Classic at the Duke Kahanamoku Aquatic Complex at the University of Hawai'i on Saturday and Sunday.

Garcia amassed six goals in three games and West totaled four goals over two days.

SJSU defeated Michigan 6-3 in its last match on Sunday and defeated Hawai'i 10-9 Friday.

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News

5

Gee Mr. Wizard



Douglas Rider / Spartan Daily

Joe Castro shows a liquid lighting experiment Friday at the Engineering Building open house. The group, mostly high school students, that came to the open house toured the labs, held a Jeopardy contest where students competed for

a Hewlett-Packard computer for their school and attended a barbecue after the tour was over. The event is held to expose San Jose State University's School of Engineering to schools that might not know about it.

Fire

continued from page 1

Hernandez said she worked in the hall's office, which was near an open kitchen, and was herself conscientious in making sure safety procedures were followed.

Fire sprinklers are not required by the California Fire Code, said Dan Johnson, an associate vice-president in Facilities, Development & Operations at SJSU.

Sonia Pereira, a senior majoring in management information systems and business, said the state should ante up the money to install sprinkler systems.

"They definitely need it (fire sprinklers) in there," Pereira said.

It is an often believed misconception that all sprinklers in an area or floor will be set off automatically, Johnson said.

The response from sprinklers can be very localized, sometimes with only one sprinkler in an area being activated. In the case of the Seton Hall University and Moulder Hall fires, sprinklers would be activated, he said.

Currently, the state of California does not require older residence halls — built before the passage of newer, stricter laws — to be retrofitted with sprinkler systems.

Since 1992, all new residence halls built three stories or higher are required to have sprinklers, said Ken Swisher, spokesman for the California State University Chancellor's office.

New residential structures

with 16 units or more must also have sprinklers.

Older structures, on the other hand, may be left as they are, Swisher said.

"The Chancellor's office is not planning to make that (sprinkler system) a systemwide requirement. All of our residence halls (in the CSU system) have alarms and smoke (detectors)," Swisher said.

All buildings, not just residence halls, are required to have standard fire detection systems, Johnson said.

A basic fire system detects a fire through heat and smoke, then sends an alarm to a monitoring agency.

"California has very strict protection laws," Johnson said.

Along with fire detection, all campus buildings have fire suppression systems as well.

There are three types of fire suppression systems, said Ramon Balaoro Jr., manager of special projects and safety with SJSU facilities.

Wall cabinets containing both a fire extinguisher and a hose are in all buildings and on every floor — usually at several locations — although fire extinguishers need not be included in every wet stand.

The rack of hose is hooked directly into piping in the wall and is always fully pressurized. The cabinet is referred to as a "wet stand," he said.

A dry stand consists only of the piping inside the walls — on the first floor of the buildings — up to each of the floors, with the outlet usually situated in each of the building's stairwells.

During a fire, a fire pump truck would hook up to the "dry stand" system through an intake valve on the first floor on the outside of the building. Water would then be pumped out. The wet stand — unlike the dry stands which are for fire department use only — are intended to be used by anyone during a fire, said Region "Gino" Garcia, a water treatment operator in SJSU's facilities plumbing shop.

"You are able to (open) the cabinet door, pull the hose out, turn the (valve) on and you have water," Garcia said.

Fire extinguishers on campus range from class A, for use with wood and paper; class B, for flammable liquids, such as oil and oil by products; class C, for electrical fires and class D, for flammable metals.

Sprinkler systems are more costly and are at a level above standard fire detection systems, Johnson said.

They are used primarily for fire suppression and to help control and contain the fire.

"Currently I believe we have a system, which in place, that is effective," said Susan Hansen, director of university housing services.

All residential halls at SJSU have a fire alarm system as well as smoke detectors, Johnson said.

"Joe West Hall is the only hall with sprinkler systems," Hansen said.

Swisher said some exceptions were made at the campus level.

"In many cases campuses have gone ahead and done that (retro-fittings)," he said.

professor of women's studies at SJSU, will give a presentation on country music and feminist consciousness.

Senior and creative arts major Victoria Moody said that by looking at different groups, women can see what others have done in history and what they have been through.

"I had professor Byerly for Women's Studies 101 in the winter — it was a good class," Moody said.

In the class, they discussed Chinese, Asian and Black women. "In three weeks, that's all we could do," Moody said.

"The recognition — I think that's one of the most important reasons to have something like this — to remember where we come from," she said.

Jose Melgoza, a junior majoring in finance, said women could do things just as well as men and thought it was a good idea to have a Women's History Week.

"It helps recognize women of the past who have done things," Melgoza said.

Senior Suzie Varin was not aware the events were taking place on campus.

"I just missed it and I'm an artist. That's unfortunate, Varin

said. "The feminist movement happened, and I think people take it for granted — I think it's important to have events like this."

Teachers such as Jan Thompson, Varin's art teacher, made sure to have women artists included in their lectures.

Brian Taylor, another one of Varin's professors who teaches the history of photography, also makes it point to include women in his courses.

"He always includes many, many women, more than any other class I've had — it's wonderful," Taylor said.

Junior Amanda Brenkman thought it was important to recognize women, to learn from the mistakes and not repeat them, hopefully.

"I don't think women's roles have changed so much, but this gives women an opportunity to expand their horizons, and have more choices available to them," Brenkman said.

Today's first presentation will be on African Women and will be presented by the Career Center at 11 a.m. in the Student Union.

A full schedule of events can be picked up at the Student Union and the Women's Resource Center.

Moulder

continued from page 1

(the fire department). I knew with how much smoke (there was), something was going to happen."

While Pomeroy waited for the units to arrive, he watched the unfolding scene.

"People were hanging out of the rooms on the Ninth and the 10th street sides (of Moulder Hall), screaming for help," Pomeroy said.

"Some of them (the students) talked about jumping. I told them 'Don't jump.'"

Help was coming, Pomeroy told the students. The fire had now engulfed the third floor hallway of the east wing, trapping students inside.

Later, during the investigation, university police said they believed the fire had begun when a group of students dragged a couch into the hallway, put it in front of Room 315 and lit it on fire.

Pomeroy described the plight of those students caught inside their rooms.

"They (the students) were concerned about the heat ... and the smoke. I told them it would get hot," Pomeroy said.

The door would keep out the fire, as all the doors in Moulder Hall, as well as those in all the other residence halls, were built to withstand a fire long enough for a room's occupants to be rescued — more than one hour.

Pomeroy told them to hang their heads out the window if they needed fresh air. "Hang in there," he told them.

Nine years later, from the comfort and safety of Building GG, home of the University Police Department, Pomeroy paused to reflect about the intense feelings he had as he waited for the San Jose Fire Department to arrive.

"In situations like (this), it seems like it took ... a month for them to show up," Pomeroy said.

He had high praise for the San Jose fire fighters, nevertheless. They responded right away, Pomeroy said.

During that early morning nine years ago, as the fire department raced toward Moulder Hall, a few of the students on the third floor's east wing — not content to wait in their rooms — took action, ignoring the pleas of Pomeroy.

One man had jumped out the window and was injured, Villarica said. The student fractured his back and injured his foot. "I should have just waited," the student had told Villarica later that morning.

The student's roommate was rescued a few minutes after he — the student — had jumped, Villarica said.

Two other students — also roommates — had ventured out into the fire.

One roommate received burns over 55 percent of his body as a result.

The other had 33 percent of his

body burnt the Spartan Daily reported.

Meanwhile, Young, who arrived at the scene, tried to reach the third floor as well — using the central stairs — but the smoke was so thick that he could not get past the second floor, Villarica said.

Pomeroy and Noriega — who also had since arrived — went up the southeast stairwell to the third floor, Pomeroy said.

"We felt the door — the door was cool — so we knew the fire not near the door," Pomeroy said. Looking through the glass window on the door, he could not see anything. "It was pitch black," Pomeroy said.

On the other side of the door — as the officers would find out moments later — stood one of the roommates who had run into the hall.

"As we opened the door (the student) fell right into his (Noriega's) arms," Pomeroy said.

"The smoke was so black," Pomeroy said, amazement still residing in his voice nearly a decade later. "If you stuck your hand into the smoke (up to your elbow) you couldn't see your hand."

Noriega took the student back down the stairs to get medical

Several had been found without batteries — students had removed them before the fire, he said.

"When they (students) do that, they defeat the purpose of that alarm," Pomeroy said.

Susan Hansen, director of university housing services, remembered the fire.

"I was devastated," she said. "I was one of the persons who cleaned up the room (of the two roommates who had been burned) and sent their belongings to their families."

The two students left school for a while, Hansen said.

Noting how many students suffered from smoke inhalation, Hansen emphasized the importance of staying low during a fire.

She remembered a line about three-and-a-half feet above the floor that circled the walls of the room the two burned students occupied.

Blackened above the line and reaching to the ceiling, while relatively undamaged below the line, the charred walls provided a clear illustration of where the smoke — which could reach temperatures as high as 1,600 degrees Fahrenheit — had been, she said.

"That (the fire) is something that has remained with me," she

"People were hanging out the rooms of the Ninth and 10th street sides (of Moulder Hall), screaming for help."

— Tim Pomeroy
on the Moulder Hall fire in 1990

treatment while Pomeroy remained to check the floor for any remaining students.

"I called out to see if anyone (else) was there," Pomeroy said.

It was later confirmed that no one was there.

"I knew that going into the smoke without a self-contained breathing apparatus would be suicide, so I didn't go in," he said.

Back outside, the paramedics had arrived.

"A triage was set up on 10th Street," Pomeroy said.

Overall, 21 students were injured in the fire, the Spartan Daily reported the following Monday. Six were sent to the hospital, one with a fractured back and two with severe burns.

Almost all 21 students were treated for smoke inhalation.

Sometime after 8 a.m., Villarica arrived to help with the cleanup.

Afterward, Pomeroy viewed some of the damage caused by the fire.

The copper pipes were sagging from the heat, he said. "The phones on the walls melted off and the smoke detectors on the ceiling — they melted."

Pomeroy noticed something more disturbing, however, in the melted plastic of the smoke detectors.

said.

Pomeroy went to see the couch outside Room 315 — the source of the fire — or what was left of it. The couch lay charred and burned in front of the room's door.

"The door was completely intact," he said.

"Everything did what it was supposed to do, but the couch and the person who lit it."

Pomeroy narrowed his eyes.

"We felt we knew who was involved," he said. "It was a little prank that went awry."

No one was ever charged.

"We (the university police) had run with it as far as we could go. The district attorney's office felt there wasn't enough to get a conviction," he said.

"They (the suspects) know who they are," Pomeroy said. "They will live with it for the rest of their lives."

Pomeroy then thought of the student rescued by Noriega.

"He (the student) was just lucky," Pomeroy said. "That was by the grace of God."

The fire still lives with Pomeroy.

"When it is winter, and people have lit their fire places, you smell the burning wood. It will bring back memories of the Moulder fire," he said.

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Women

continued from page 1

idea of having the entire class of 40 attend the presentation.

"History is not just about war and political figures — that is what it used to be 100 years ago," Junkerman said. "The women's movement has fundamentally changed our perspective of history and of women."

It gives women a good focus and an opportunity to think, Junkerman said, after hearing two students having a conversation about women artists.

"I once heard a student say to another student, 'I didn't know there were so many women artists,'" Junkerman said. "As an artist herself, she was pleased to discover there was tradition behind her."

Women were neglected and not really looked at until the mid '70s, when they were re-discovered, Junkerman said.

"These kind of events help give them courage, because it still is not easy. Now they say — 'they can do it, I can do it too,'" she said.

This afternoon, Victoria Byerly,

Propositions 2000

Along Party Lines

Full text at spartandaily.org

Prop. 19 makes cop killers pay stiffer penalties

Clarissa Aljentera
DAILY STAFF EDITOR

A person convicted of second-degree murder of a university police officer faces 15 years to life in prison under current legislation. Proposition 19 on the March 7 ballot could change that and significantly up the ante.

In addition to law enforcement personnel working for the California State University, Prop. 19 covers those with the San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District. Its penalties would be consistent with those penalties now involving the murder of other specified peace officers in California, except the prison sentence would be bumped up to 25 years to life with no possibility of parole.

"Someone who murders a police officer presents a greater danger to the public than someone who kills in a fit of passion," University Police Department Sgt. John Laws said.

Student Victoria Edgell said that anyone convicted of murder should be hit with the sentence of 25 years to life, not just people convicted of the second-degree murder of a peace officer.

"Killing people is the worst thing you can do," said Edgell, a student seeking a credential in teaching. "Police officers are often in dangerous situations, but I guess everyone should be severely punished for killing anyone."

Student Hortensia Rosales said she had other thoughts.

"Fifteen to life is fine (for the people convicted of second-degree murder of a peace officer). It's not the same with UPD than on the streets," Rosales said.

Police-officer safety issues are worse on the city streets, rather than on the grounds of a university, Rosales said.

According to the ballot pamphlet summaries, a yes vote on the proposition would mean longer possible prison terms, depending on circumstances. A no vote would keep the maximum penalty at 15 years to life.

The argument for Proposition 19 was written by Ted Brown, who is with the Libertarian Party of California but Brown asked voters to disregard what he had written in response to an early version of Prop. 19 because it has already been included in the bill.

"The argument is a mistake," Brown said. "It is already said in the bill; it all became law last year," Brown said in a phone interview from Pasadena. "I wrote an argument that wasn't valid on Prop. 19."

The argument Brown wrote said that people should vote against the proposition because if it passes, train and college police could order individuals to join a posse to catch criminals.

Despite writing an argument that wasn't valid on the proposition, Brown is still voting no on 19 because he said the penalty for second-degree murder should be raised.

"Police and teachers' lives are just the same as anyone else's life ... It should be 25 to life for everybody," Brown said.

Student Alyx Brun mirrored Brown's thoughts on the murder of any individual.

"I don't think it matters if you kill. It is still a person," said Brun, a sophomore in geography. "It (the years convicted) shouldn't be based on a job."

Prop. 22 brings gay marriages into 'new' Civil Rights fight

Lance Analla
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Jennifer Rycenga, a religious studies professor at San Jose State University, is opposed to Proposition 22, the Limit on Marriages Initiative that would recognize marriage only between a man and a woman in California.

"It's a cynical measure attempting to promote anti-gay rhetoric," Rycenga said.

Prop. 22, also known as the Knight Initiative, is named after state Sen. Pete Knight (R-Palmdale), who introduced the proposal.

It has elicited reaction from heavy hit-

ters on both sides of the issue.

On Jan. 1, the National Gay and Lesbian task force joined with the National Religious Leadership Roundtable in Orange County in order to oppose the proposition.

At the roundtable, the Rev. James Lawson, a leader in the civil rights movement, said, "Tonight, we do not stand alone against Prop. 22. Our opposition is rooted in the most fundamental religious principles of community, love and justice."

The American Civil Liberties Union also opposes the proposition, saying that anti-gay marriage laws violate the "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution. That clause says, "Full faith

and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state." It means that any marriage taking place in any state has to be recognized.

Wiggys Sivertsen, director of counseling services at SJSU, said Prop. 22 is outrageous.

"The motivation for (Proposition 22) is just pure bigotry and pouting by (Pete) Knight, who is just pandering to people's homophobia," Sivertsen said.

According to Sivertsen, the Knight Initiative adds nothing to what is already in place with the Marriage Initiative Act, which already ignores gay marriages.

"All the Knight Initiative does is reaf-

firm the Constitution," said Sivertsen.

"This is the same kind of bigotry which made interracial marriages illegal."

In September 1996, a federal anti-gay marriage law was enacted, allowing some states to refuse to recognize gay marriages that occurred in other states.

Under the law, gay couples would be ineligible for spousal benefits under the Social Security and Medicare programs or any other federal benefits reserved for heterosexual, married couples.

As of January 1998, California became one of the states blocking anti-gay marriage laws. Both Sivertsen and Rycenga said passage of Prop. 22 would not affect the anti-gay marriage law in the state.

Proposition 23 tries to turn elections on its collective ear

Julian J. Ramos
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

In the 1985 movie Brewster's Millions, Montgomery Brewster, played by Richard Pryor, spends his millions to encourage New York City voters to vote for "none of the above" in a mayoral election.

In the March 7 California primary election, another unconventional millionaire will attempt to add that voting option to state election ballots in Proposition 23.

Silicon Valley millionaire Alan Shugart would like to give Californians the option of not having to vote for any of the candidates on the state ballot. Shugart is a pioneer in the computer disk drive industry. After his

beginnings at IBM, Shugart went on to create Seagate Technology in 1979. Before leaving Seagate in 1998, the company had become the world's largest independent manufacturer of disk drives.

In that same year 1998, Shugart founded ASI, Al Shugart International, to help entrepreneurs start companies and to help those companies grow.

Shugart became involved in politics in 1996. He was upset with the political system, so he tried to elect his dog Ernest to Congress. Even though his attempt failed, Shugart created FOEPAC, Friends of Ernest Political Action Committee. FOEPAC has since been campaigning in support of "none of the above."

Supporters claim that a "none of the

above" option will encourage people to register, encourage more of those who are registered to vote, cause better candidates to be nominated and reduce negative campaigning. NOTA, or "none of the above," is strictly a "protest" vote. The proposition stipulates that if NOTA were to gain the most votes, the candidate with second highest number of votes would win.

"The opportunity to vote for 'none of the above' gives a voter a choice if he or she does not want to vote for particular candidate that are on the ballot for a particular office," Shugart wrote in the California Voter Information Guide.

In Nevada, currently the only state with NOTA, opponents claim that NOTA has done very little of what supporters claim.

They say voters realize that a NOTA vote is a waste and quickly lose interest in the option. Though the NOTA votes are tallied, they do not count in determining an election.

"Voters already have the ability to write-in candidates," said Kenneth Peter, SJSU associate professor of political science. "It feeds the public's cynicism about the candidates."

The Green Party of California is among the groups that oppose Proposition 23.

"If you want to throw your vote away, don't vote," the Green Party of California states in the California Voter Information Guide. "But if you do vote, you should be able to cast a meaningful vote for a candidate you like."

Props. 30 and 31 aim to limit ambulance chasing lawsuits

Franklin Leiva
DAILY SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A reckless driver hits a woman in a crosswalk. The driver's insurance company delays paying this woman compensation for the woman's medical need.

Under the law, she cannot sue to get her money sooner. That's only one of the topics that Proposition 30 and 31 discuss in

the upcoming March 7 elections.

Passing of Proposition 30 on Tuesday's California primary election ballot would restore the right of a person to sue an individual, business, or insurance company for unfair practices regarding accident claims. Voting no for this proposition will continue to deny the right of a person to sue in such instances.

Proposition 31, if it passes, will amend Proposition 30. It will limit to some extent when a per-

son could sue another person's insurance company. If rejected, Proposition 30 will not be changed.

What will happen if these propositions pass is a matter of great debate.

People who are against these propositions say they will increase insurance premiums, increase the number of frivolous lawsuits in accident cases and cause taxpayers millions of dollars.

A former state legislative analyst William Hamm, is one of many people who feel both propositions will increase insurance premiums for citizens.

"Propositions 31 and 30 could easily cost taxpayers millions of dollars annually in higher insurance cost for schools, cities and other local government," Hamm said.

Supporters disagree with this position and claim that these propositions will bring justice to

people who don't have enough money to afford medical bills. Victims will be compensated faster and more efficiently.

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader favors the propositions arguing they protect consumer rights.

"Proposition 30 discourages lawsuits by requiring insurance companies to pay your claims fairly. A 'Yes' vote protects your rights against insurance companies," Nader said.

Prop. 25 seeks to tackle problems behind campaign financing

Jill Toyoshiba
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY

Venture to Page 135 of the blue Voter Information Guide and you will find eight pages of Proposition 25 text that proponents say will reform the way campaigns are run in California. Critics say Prop. 25 is "a cure worse than the disease."

This fifth attempt at campaign finance reform in 12 years would limit campaign donations. It would ask candidates to curb their spending, adding new disclosure requirements and would finance campaigns with public funds — if candidates are willing to limit their spending.

The co-sponsors of Prop. 25 are Democrat Tony Miller and Republican Ron Unz. Miller is the former secretary of state and co-sponsor of Proposition 208, the most recent campaign finance reform measure. Unz is a former theoretical physicist and Silicon Valley millionaire

who wrote Proposition 227, the successful measure to abolish bilingual education.

Prop. 25 foes — including Taxpayers for Fair Elections, the California Chamber of Commerce, the California Teachers Association and the League of Women Voters — call the measure "a cure worse than the disease" because it adds to the abuses of the system.

They cite the legalizing of "soft money" loopholes and the \$55 million taxpayer subsidy as arguments against the measure. Opponents contend that Prop. 25 allows wealthy individuals to dominate the election by ignoring contribution limits.

"Soft money" is a term used in federal elections for unregulated donations made to political parties, such as the Democrats or Republicans, for "party building" purposes. Because the money is unregulated, parties can use it to mention a candidate as long as they don't tell voters to vote for or against someone.

In federal elections, individual donations are limited to \$1,000 per candidate. The "loophole" refers to how a donor can exceed the hard money limit of \$1,000 by going through a political party.

"Keep in mind that under current law," said Tony Miller, co-sponsor of Prop. 25, by e-mail, "there are no restrictions at all on campaign contributions, so there is no difference between soft and hard money."

Prop. 25 would give California one of the toughest anti-soft money laws in the nation.

"If this law were in effect at the federal level, there would be no 'soft money' problem."

A group or individual can't give more than \$25,000 per year to political parties for electronic advertising.

Also, political parties can contribute only up to 25 percent of voluntary spending limits.

But Scott Macdonald, communications director for Taxpayers

for Fair Elections and No on 25, said that while money given to political parties can't be used for electronic ads, it can be used for phone banking and direct mail, which have a direct effect on elections.

Opponents argue that these donations would still be influential and would be legalized under the measure.

California and five other states do not have any political contribution limits whatsoever. State voters have previously approved three measures to change that, but none have passed court muster.

The measure is complicated even by proponents' assessment.

"Whenever one treads in First Amendment areas and attempts to prevent loopholes, a measure is going to be complex. Unfortunately, this one is complex," Miller said.

Dr. Roy Christman, San Jose State University political science faculty member, stressed as problematic the measure's

length and complexity is, while noting voter-approved initiatives become law without the benefit of hearings with experts and the fine-tuning and amendment processes that legislative laws receive.

"What Mr. Unz could have done was said, 'OK, we're going to address disclosure. We're going to make it tighter. We're going to do the electronic thing. We'll have a nice, short little proposition — everyone will understand it,'" he said.

An independent expenditure is money spent for or against a candidate or an initiative but unaffiliated with the candidate or initiative committee.

Christman said he would prefer a measure that leaves contributions wide open, but with thorough disclosure requirements so voters will know how a candidate's campaign is financed.

"It's not how successful a candidate is at raising money," Macdonald said, "but is it fair?"



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A.S.

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A.S. records.

Controller Carlos Aguirre,

explaining what happened to the dwindling funds, said about \$30,000 is taken right off the top for three campus organizations that receive approximately \$10,000 each by Associated Students policy. Those organizations are the Women's Resource Center, the Environmental Resource Center and "A.S. 55," an awards ceremony that honors student leaders, "regardless of their grade point average," said Maria Murphy, administrative assistant to A.S.

Deducting for those causes, the balance is about \$63,000. But as early as Oct. 20, 1999, records for the biweekly finance committee meeting, chaired by Aguirre, showed the balance in the student organization fund at \$25,356.25 — and the academic year was just beginning.

Aguirre defended the tiny balance left in the student organization fund.

"We give out the money on a first come, first serve basis and most of the activities happen in fall semester," Aguirre said. "I almost never say no. Almost everyone who asks for money gets it."

But some students, such as Dustin Winn of SJSU's rugby team, wonder if it's fair to give away the bulk of the student organization fund in fall when activities on campus are just picking up momentum and students are getting acquainted.



Aguirre

Akbar Shetty, an A.S. director and new member of the finance committee, said spring is a "mellow time of year" for student organizations, so most of the money from the fund is doled out in fall.

But records from the Student Life Center do not bear that out.

The Student Organization Directory, listing new student organizations on campus, is produced four times year, said Maria Rodrigues, a support coordinator in the Student Life Center.

"We need to update it at the beginning of semester and around mid-term due to the amount of change and turnover," she said.

Rodrigues said lots of student organizations come on board and register in early spring semester and at mid-term.

"That's when students regroup and realize they have a need to get a new organization started," Rodrigues said.

Shetty refused to comment on whether dispersing the bulk of the student organization fund in one semester — fall — was fair, since the operating budget is projected from the mandatory fees and enrollments of two semesters.

Shetty also refused to comment on whether the style of giveaway was politically motivated to reward the party faithful and friends who supported those starting their new term of office in fall semester.

Paul Higgins, chair of the newly formed SJSU Party, is running for director of student fee affairs in the A.S. election on March 22 and 23.

"The way student organizations get money from the fund should not be politically motivated," Higgins said. "The criteria for giving out the money should be based on the organization's ability to benefit the greatest number of students."

Aguirre said he has been thinking about changing the policy so that money from the A.S. student organization fund is more evenly divided on a semester-by-semester basis.

"I just followed the way we gave money away to student organizations when I was a director on Heather Cook's board," Aguirre said. "I am just following the same pattern, but I noticed back then that most of it was gone by the end of fall semester."

spring at the end of March or early April, and Rodrigues said there are 150 to 200 registered student organizations at any given time.

A.S. records indicate that few organizations receive the upper limit of \$3,000, but most organizations that ask for the maximum get close to that total, after justifying their needs and expenses on the Associated Students Finance Request Form.

For example, the African

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan — also came forward to ask for money from the A.S. student organization fund.

Alpha Omicron Pi asked the A.S. finance committee for \$1,187.50 to stage a "Mr. Fraternity Night" in the Student Union ballroom and Aguirre gave them the full amount.

The Islamic Studies Club requested \$2,300 for its "Islamic Awareness Week" — held on campus from Nov. 8 to Nov. 19, 1999 and Aguirre gave them the full amount of \$2,300.

On that same big give-away day, MEChA asked Aguirre and his committee for \$3,000, for their RAZA Day, held Nov. 12, 1999 in Morris Dailey Auditorium.

Aguirre and committee gave MEChA \$2,965.

Rodrigues said the names of members of student organizations are confidential, even though the Student Organization Directory lists a contact person. The names of other members may not be disclosed, she said.

Agendas and minutes from meetings of the A.S. finance committee, going back to the beginning of fall semester, show certain students have come forward more than once to request money from the A.S. student organization fund for organizations that seem to be inter-related.

Both Aguirre and A.S. President Leo Davila said they

had noticed there appeared to be some abuse of the system and the fund.

Aguirre did not answer calls to provide details or explain the remark, but Davila said the Student Life Center needs to put some policies and procedures in place that prevent registered student organizations from folding soon after they receive money from A.S.

"It looks like some student organizations get together just to get A.S. money, then fold, but it's hard to prove," Davila said.

Jim Cellini, director of the Student Life Center, said the mission of his department is not to police student organizations but to encourage and facilitate student leadership.

The policies and procedures of SJSU's Student Life Center are pretty much standard throughout the California State University system, he said.

"There is quite a bit of turnover among student organizations," Cellini said. "Many have trouble organizing and staying together. We try to help them."

Winn, who plays the scrum-half position on the SJSU men's rugby team, said his team got money from A.S. in the fall, but they need more.

"If student organizations are abusing the A.S. fund, it cheats me and my team and all the students. That's not right," he said.

"It looks like some student organizations get together just to get A.S. money, then fold, but it's hard to prove."

— Leo Davila
A.S. president

He said the way the fund was distributed was something he would consider when they start working on the budget for the 2000-2001 academic year — after A.S. elections and spring break.

Whether or not the incumbent A.S. candidates are voted back into office on March 22 and 23, the executives and some finance committee members of the spring 2000 semester will be involved in forging the new budget.

To qualify for A.S. funding, Aguirre said student organizations must be registered with the Student Life Center and no organization can ask for more than a maximum of \$3,000 per academic year.

Rodrigues said student organizations must have a minimum of 15 members to register and a minimum of eight students to re-register. Re-registration of student organizations takes place every

Awareness Month Planning Committee asked for the full \$3,000 and Aguirre and his committee gave them \$2,480.

Another special interest student organization, known as AISES — the American Indian Science and Engineering Society — asked for \$2435.32, and received \$2,345.00, almost the full amount minus \$90.32.

David Ruiz, one of SJSU President Robert Caret's interns, is a member of AISES.

"We recruit from all majors because there are so few Native American Indians on campus," said Ruiz, who is not an engineer.

At the same Oct. 20 meeting of the A.S. finance committee when the African Awareness Month Planning Committee and AISES came forward requesting funds through organization spokespersons, the Islamic Studies Club, Alpha Omicron Pi, and MEChA —

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